Relationships are the key to cordial relations

"Watershed" may be a bit dramatic, but under the circumstances it's a doubly appropriate description of January's Environmental Summit, through the eyes of attendees like representatives of the golf and environmental communities for the first time discussed their differences face-to-face. Whereas in January's Golf Course News we presented a golf-centric view of the Summit — through the eyes of attendees like architect Dr. Michael Hurdzan — we concentrated this month on representatives of the golf and environmental communities, which will include 340 acres of nature preserve.

On the flip side, environmentalists on hand for the Summit can no longer honestly consider golf course superintendents as chemical dumpers obsessed with maintaining pristine conditions to the exclusion of natural habitats. Instead, they see Tim Hiers, the superintending Berkshire Hills CC, as an avowed, no-nonsense advocate of responsible plantings and ecosystem preservation. The environmentalists were very receptive to hearing about the positive aspects of golf and its relation to the environment, Continued on page 23

Letters

THANKS FOR RATING COVERAGE

To the editor:

I wrote the article in the February 1995 Golf Course News. When I called the editor of the magazine to discuss the subject of course ratings [GCN January, p. 1], the furor has subsided stemming from the demeaning comments Colonial Architects, Inc. received in the 1994 Places to Play guide, we are awaiting the 1995 edition (November) to see how well Golf Digest has improved the methodology and looked at ways of refining the final product.

Thanks again for the attention given to this subject.

Richard Stoughton, superintendent Colonial Charters GC, Longs, S.C.

THANKS FOR RATING COVERAGE

To the editor:

I have appreciated and enjoyed working with DNR, Corps of Engineers and PCA, while they have rules and laws to uphold, they still do what is best for all. The Green Section working with government agencies should be able to make for a better environment.

Michael J. P., superintendent Dakota Peat & Blenders Grand Forks, N.D.

REMEMBER TO COUNT HUMANS

Among Earth's species

To the editor:

In regard to the article (GCN, January) concerning the ecosystem research proposal being supported by Jim Snow, USGA, along with the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, National Wildlife Federation, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation, and several other organizations and government agencies, I think this is a very positive move on behalf of all these individuals. It is this reader's opinion that all the environment professionals have the obligation and right to be concerned about environmental matters, we must not lose sight of all the earth's species. Man and his environment is the most important! Our cities are growing at a rapid rate. We stack people into 20 apartment building to live.

If not for parks and golf courses, most people would not have the chance to get out into the open to enjoy grass, trees, birds, and such. Golf courses create jobs and help or generally for the suffering human race. Golf has become a social function and improvement. These techniques include new discovery methods and that control. The net result of the strategies are:

1. Loosen the soil profile, thereby reducing runoffs.
2. Improve the soil microbiology for sustainable plant life.
3. Create a healthier turf and thereby reduce reliance on chemicals, fertilizers and water.

The presentation was well received. Hopefully, some of the "bad press" of the past was countered by a better understanding of what we do.

Mark Leslie, managing editor

Hugging the learning curve

As representatives of the golf and environmental communities discussed their differences face-to-face, it was apparent that there are good signs and bad. We have good signs and bad. I feel like New England Patriotserbera Misty Hurst after a disastrous season opener last final (1994) against Dan Marino and the Miami Dolphins. "First, you ask me when will you stop? he said. "Then you ask me when you stop? Then it's when is it gonna stop? Good... bad... good... bad. Like a tennis game, you could get whiplash keeping score.

The good: At January's Environmental Summit at Pebble Beach, the co-sponsor of National Wildlife Federation and a number of colleagues from such groups as the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society and Friends of the Earth held positive discussions with representatives of the golf world. The bad: Only weeks before the National Wildlife Federation's Ronny Ziegler magazine ran a feature story entitled "Rick and the Gang Visit A Beautiful Golf Course — and Find That Looks Can Fool You.

The good: The Scottsdale, Ariz., Planning Commission has endorsed Fiscus Kale Partners' plan to establish a country club facility which will include 340 acres of nature preserve.

The bad: A reporter for none other than the New York Times, writing about golf development in Asia, quoted Sreeja Kosan of Friends of Earth in Malaysia and asked whether the estimated 75,000 new golf courses, which will include 340 acres of nature preserve.

To the editor:

I am writing regarding your February Golf Course News article on Paul Clute being named Builder of the Year. In the clip on the front page of this issue, you made reference to the offer to award the Old Overton Golf Club in Vestavia Hills, Ala.

This course was indeed designed by Tom Fazio. However, this was a collaborative effort with Jerry Pate, who now has his own design firm, and should have been listed as a co-designer. Jerry's involvement in the project was extensive. During construction, Jerry lived in Birmingham, and with Fazio's approval he re-routed the back nine. Jerry Pate should also receive the credit he is due.

Scott Pate, vice president Jerry Pate Golf Design Inc., Pensacola, Fla.